

**Title 1. Government and Finances – Chapter 105**  
**Laotiyaniłhslaʼshúha katyohkwaya tú·seʼ**  
*Their laws of the groups we have*  
**BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**

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**105.1. Purpose and Policy**

105.1-1. It is the purpose of this law to govern boards, committees, and commissions of the Nation, including the procedures regarding the appointment and election of persons to boards, committees and commissions, creation of bylaws, maintenance of official records, compensation, and other items related to boards, committees and commissions.

- (a) This law shall not apply to the Oneida Business Committee, or standing committees of the Oneida Business Committee.
- (b) This law does not apply to Tribal corporations due to the corporate structure and autonomy of those entities.

105.1-2. It is the policy of the Nation to have consistent and standard procedures for choosing and appointing or electing the most qualified persons to boards, committees and commissions, for creation of bylaws governing boards committees and commissions, and for the maintenance of information created by and for boards, committees and commissions.

**105.2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal**

105.2-1. This law was adopted by the Oneida Business Committee by resolution BC-05-14-97-F and amended by resolutions BC-09-27-06-E, BC-09-22-10-C, BC-09-26-18-C, and BC-08-12-20-B.

105.2-2. This law may be amended or repealed by the Oneida Business Committee or the General Tribal Council pursuant to the procedures set out in the Legislative Procedures Act.

105.2-3. Should a provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be held as invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this law which are considered to have legal force without the invalid portions.

105.2-4. In the event of a conflict between a provision of this law and a provision of another law, the provisions of this law shall control.

105.2-5. This law is adopted under authority of the Constitution of the Oneida Nation.

**105.3. Definitions**

105.3-1. This section shall govern the definitions of words and phrases used within this law. All words not defined herein shall be used in their ordinary and everyday sense.

- (a) "Application" means the form by which a person seeks to be appointed to fill a vacancy on an entity.
- (b) "Appointment" means the process by which a person is chosen to fill a vacancy on an

entity by the Oneida Business Committee.

(c) "Business day" means Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays recognized by the Nation.

(d) "Bylaws" means a document which provides a framework for the operation and management of a board, committee, or commission of the Nation chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs.

(e) "Conference" means any training, seminar, meeting, or other assembly of persons which is not an assembly of the entity.

(f) "Confidential information" means all information or data, whether printed, written, or oral, concerning business or customers of the Nation, disclosed to, acquired by, or generated by a member of an entity in confidence at any time during their elected or appointed term or during their employment.

(g) "Conflict of interest" means any interest, real or apparent, whether it be personal, financial, political, or otherwise, in which an elected official, officer, political appointee, employee, contractor, or appointed or elected member, or their immediate family members, friends or associates, or any other person with whom they have contact, have that conflicts with any right of the Nation to property, information, or any other right to own and operate activities free from undisclosed competition or other violation of such rights of the Nation. In addition, conflict of interest also means any financial or familial interest an elected official, officer, political appointee, employee, contractor, or appointed or elected member or their immediate family members may have in any transaction between the Nation and an outside party.

(h) "Direct report" means a position which requires direct contact and supervision by the Oneida Business Committee because of the position, the duties, or the services provided. Direct reports shall be identified by the Oneida Business Committee through resolution

(i) "Entity" means a board, committee or commission created by the General Tribal Council or the Oneida Business Committee whose members are appointed by the Oneida Business Committee or elected by the Nation's membership.

(j) "E-poll" means an electronic poll, which is the act of delivering an e-mail to all members of an entity, in order to seek a response which identifies a vote in favor of, opposing, or abstaining to an issue requiring approval by the entity.

(k) "Joint meeting" means a meeting with the Oneida Business Committee.

(l) "Nation" means the Oneida Nation.

(m) "Per Diem" means the payment made by the Nation to offset the costs of being on travel on behalf of the Oneida Nation.

(n) "Political appointee" means a person appointed by a member of the Oneida Business Committee to provide assistance with the Oneida Business Committee member's daily activities and operations.

(o) "Prohibited drugs" means marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, phencyclidine (PCP), hallucinogens, methaqualone, barbiturates, narcotics, and any other substance included in Schedules I through V, as defined by Section 812 of Title 21 of the United States Code. This also includes prescription medication or over-the-counter medicine used in an unauthorized or unlawful manner.

(p) "Stipend" means the amount paid by the Oneida Nation to a person serving on a board, committee, or commission of the Nation in order to compensate the individual for his or her contribution of time, effort, and work for his or her board, committee, or commission

for the betterment of the Nation.

(q) "Subcommittee" means a subgroup of an entity; which is comprised of fewer than all members of the entity; which is designated one (1) or more specific responsibilities on behalf of the entity.

(r) "Substantiated complaint" means a complaint or allegation in a complaint that was found to be valid by clear and convincing evidence.

(s) "Task Force or Ad Hoc" means a group of persons gathered to pursue a single goal, the accomplishment of which means the disbanding of the group. The goal is generally accomplished in a short time period, i.e. less than one year, but the goal itself may be long-term.

(t) "Vacancy" means any position on any board, committee or commission caused by resignation, end of term, removal, termination, or creation of a new position.

#### **105.4. Creation of an Entity**

105.4-1. An entity of the Nation shall be created by a resolution or law adopted by the Oneida Business Committee or General Tribal Council.

105.4-2. The law or resolution establishing the entity shall state the purpose of the entity and all powers and responsibilities delegated to the entity.

105.4-3. The Oneida Business Committee shall be responsible for drafting the initial bylaws of the entity.

#### **105.5. Applications**

105.5-1. The Oneida Business Committee shall approve all applications to serve on an entity of the Nation. All application materials shall be available in the Business Committee Support Office and any other location specified by the Business Committee Support Office.

(a) All applications shall include:

(1) a statement explaining the attendance requirements of section 105.12-3; and

(2) a section regarding disclosures of conflicts of interest.

(b) An additional application form shall be required for those entities that require a background investigation. This background investigation application shall include the applicant's social security number and any other information required for a background investigation. The background investigation application shall be solely used for the background investigation and not included in the application materials that are then shared with the Oneida Business Committee, entity, and/or the Election Board.

105.5-2. Applications shall be filed with the Business Committee Support Office by 4:30 p.m. of the deadline date.

105.5-3. Within eight (8) days after the posted deadline for filing applications, the Business Committee Support Office shall notify all persons who have filed an application of the date his or her application was received and if his or her application met the deadline to be considered for the election or appointment.

105.5-4. Applications for elected positions shall be verified according to the Nation's laws and/or policies governing elections. Applications for appointed positions shall be verified by the Business Committee Support Office as needed or as required in the bylaws of the entity.

105.5-5. *Insufficient Applicants.* In the event that there are an insufficient number of applicants after the deadline date has passed for appointed positions, the Business Committee Support Office may repost for an additional time period.

- (a) If the number of applicants is equal to or less than the number of vacancies then it shall be determined to be an insufficient number of applicants.
- (b) The Business Committee Support Office shall notify the Oneida Business Committee if a position will be reposted for an additional time period.
- (c) In the event of reposting, prior applicants will be considered to have filed applications within the deadline period.
- (d) The Oneida Business Committee may elect to include within the pool of appointed persons late applications.

## **105.6. Vacancies**

105.6-1. The manner by which an individual fills a vacancy, either through election or appointment, shall determine that member's status as an appointed or elected official, despite the entity's classification as an appointed or elected entity pursuant to the entity's bylaws.

105.6-2. A position on an entity shall be considered vacant in the following situations:

- (a) *End of Term.* A vacancy is effective as of 4:30 p.m. of the last day of the month in which the term ends.
  - (1) Although a position is considered vacant once the term ends, the member of the entity may remain in office until the member's successor has been sworn in by the Oneida Business Committee in an effort to prevent a discontinuation of business or a loss of quorum for the entity.
- (b) *Removal.* Removal is effective, pursuant to any law and/or policy of the Nation regarding removal.
- (c) *Termination of Appointment.* A termination is effective upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Oneida Business Committee in favor of a member's termination of appointment.
- (d) *Resignation.* A resignation is effective upon:
  - (1) Deliverance of a letter to the Business Committee Support Office and to the Chairperson of the entity, or designee; or
  - (2) Acceptance by motion of the entity of a verbal resignation.
- (e) *New Positions.* Vacancies on new entities are effective upon adoption of bylaws.

105.6-3. An entity shall notify the Business Committee Support Office as soon as the entity learns that a position has or will become vacant. All notices of vacancy shall be sent to the entities for clarification or confirmation prior to notification to the Oneida Business Committee.

105.6-4. The Business Committee Support Office shall forward the notice of vacancy to the Secretary. The Secretary shall request and receive approval from the Oneida Business Committee to post the notice of vacancy. The Business Committee Support Office shall post notice of vacancies at the following times:

- (a) *End of Term.* Automatically sixty (60) days prior to completion of the term.
- (b) *Removal.* No later than the next Oneida Business Committee meeting following the effective date of the removal.
- (c) *Resignation.* No later than the next Oneida Business Committee meeting following the Business Committee Support Office's receipt of notice of an effective resignation from the entity.
- (d) *New Positions.* Upon one of the following conditions:
  - (1) if not specified, immediately upon creation of entity or adoption of bylaws, whichever is later, or

(2) upon date specified when creating the entity.

(e) *Termination of appointment.* No later than the next Oneida Business Committee meeting following the effective date of the termination.

105.6-5. Notice of vacancies shall be posted by the Business Committee Support Office in all official media outlets of the Nation, as determined by the Oneida Business Committee, as well as any other location deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

### **105.7. Appointment to an Entity**

105.7-1. *Appointment Selection.* The following procedures shall be used to determine how the applicant for an appointed position is selected:

(a) Within eight (8) business days after the posted deadline for submitting an application, or within twenty-one (21) days of the posted deadline if the entity requires a background investigation to be completed as part of the application process, the Business Committee Support Office shall:

(1) deliver all applications, along with a summary of qualifications to hold office, and the results of the background investigation if required, to each member of the Oneida Business Committee as well as the entity's Chairperson; and

(2) place the appointment for the entity on the next executive session portion of the agenda of a regular or special Oneida Business Committee meeting in which the appointment is intended to be made; or

(3) if delays in compiling the applications, summary of qualifications, or results of any investigations exist, request additional time from the Oneida Business Committee to complete requirements of section 105.7-1(a)(1)-(2).

(b) Each member of the Oneida Business Committee shall review the application materials prior to executive session and be prepared to discuss and select an applicant for appointment.

(1) The entity's Chairperson may review the application materials and submit to the Business Committee Support Office a recommendation to the Oneida Business Committee of an applicant for appointment.

(A) The recommendation shall be submitted to the Business Committee Support Office in accordance with the submission deadlines for the Oneida Business Committee meeting in which the appointment is intended to be made.

(c) The Oneida Business Committee shall have a full and complete discussion of the merits and qualifications of the potential applicants, and any recommendation made by the Chairperson of the entity, during executive session. After completing a thorough discussion, the Oneida Business Committee shall:

(1) select an applicant for appointment, or

(2) ask the Oneida Nation's Secretary to re-notice the vacancy because of ineligible, unqualified, or under qualified applicants.

(d) All appointments shall be made by the Oneida Business Committee during the open session of a regular or special Oneida Business Committee meeting. The Oneida Business Committee shall not appoint an applicant who fails to meet the requirements set out in the entity's bylaws.

(e) During the open session of the regular or special Oneida Business Committee meeting, a member of the Oneida Business Committee may make a motion to appoint an individual.

Oneida Business Committee members may:

- (1) accept the selected applicant and vote to appoint the individual to the vacant position, or
- (2) reject the selected applicant and vote to oppose the appointment of the individual.

(f) If the Oneida Business Committee rejects the selected applicant, the matter will be deferred to the next Oneida Business Committee meeting where another applicant may be recommended by the Oneida Business Committee, or the Oneida Business Committee may direct the vacancy to be re-posted. When a vacancy is re-posted under this section, all applications from the first posting shall be considered to have been filed within the deadline period.

105.7-2. *Notification of Appointment.* Once an individual is selected for appointment at an Oneida Business Committee meeting, the Nation's Secretary shall notify all applicants of the final status of their application.

(a) The Nation's Chairperson shall forward a list of all applicants to the Nation's Secretary and the final decision regarding the selection after the procedures for selection of an applicant described in section 105.7-1 are completed.

(b) The Nation's Secretary shall include on the notice to the applicant selected for appointment the following paragraph: "The Oneida Nation reports all income paid by the Oneida Nation in whatever form. The Internal Revenue Service of the United States considers stipends paid to members of boards, committees, and commissions to be income which may be offset by expenses related to that income. You will receive an income report which is also forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service, it is also your responsibility to keep documentation of expenses related to this income."

105.7-3. *Declination of Appointment.* An individual who has been selected for appointment to an entity by the Oneida Business Committee may decline the appointment.

(a) An individual may decline an appointment to an entity in the following ways:

- (1) Delivery of a letter stating that the individual wishes to decline the appointment to the Business Committee Support Office; or
- (2) The failure to take the oath of office within thirty (30) days of being selected for appointment by the Oneida Business Committee.

(b) The Business Committee Support Office shall notify the Oneida Business Committee if an individual declines an appointment to an entity. The Oneida Business Committee shall then use the original pool of applications for the vacancy posting and the process outlined in section 105.7-1 to select another applicant for appointment.

105.7-4. *Termination of Appointment.* An appointed member of an entity serves at the discretion of the Oneida Business Committee. Upon the recommendation of a member of the Oneida Business Committee or the entity, a member of an appointed entity may have his or her appointment terminated by the Oneida Business Committee.

(a) A two-thirds majority vote of the Oneida Business Committee shall be required in order to terminate the appointment of an individual.

(b) The Oneida Business Committee's decision to terminate an appointment is final and not subject to appeal.

### **105.8. Election to an Entity**

105.8-1. All elected positions shall be nominated at a caucus called by the Oneida Election Board, or apply for ballot placement, in accordance with the Nation's laws and/or policies governing elections, except where an entity's bylaws allow for a vacancy to be filled by appointment.

(a) When the Election Board notifies an applicant or nominee that he or she is eligible to be placed on the ballot, the following paragraph shall be included: "The Oneida Nation reports all income paid by the Nation in whatever form. The Internal Revenue Service of the United States considers stipends paid to members of boards, committees, and commissions to be income which may be offset by expenses related to that income. You will receive an income report which is also forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service, it is also your responsibility to keep documentation of expenses related to this income."

105.8-2. All other processes for the election of a member of an entity shall be as directed by the Nation's laws and/or policies governing elections.

### **105.9. Oath of Office**

105.9-1. All appointed and elected positions are official upon taking an oath during a regular or special Oneida Business Committee meeting, or at an alternative time and location as determined by the Secretary. All rights and delegated authorities of membership in the entity shall vest upon taking the oath. The Nation's Secretary shall notify the chosen persons when they shall appear for taking the oath.

(a) When taking an oath, the appointed or elected member shall appear in person to take his or her oath, except if granted permission by the Secretary to appear through video conferencing, or through other telecommunications.

(b) If an oath is administered outside of an Oneida Business Committee meeting, a quorum of Oneida Business Committee members shall be present to witness the oath.

105.9-2. The Oneida Business Committee shall approve wording of oaths. Any revisions of oaths shall be approved by the Oneida Business Committee prior to usage. Oaths shall be kept on file by the Business Committee Support Office.

105.9-3. Originals of the signed oath, or electronic copies of the originals of the signed oath, shall be maintained by the Business Committee Support Office. Copies of the oath shall be forwarded to the new member of the entity and the entity.

105.9-4. The following oath is the standard oath to be used unless a specific oath for the entity is pre-approved by the Oneida Business Committee: I, [name], hereby promise to uphold the laws and regulations of the Oneida Nation, the General Tribal Council, and the Oneida Nation Constitution. I will perform my duties to the best of my ability and on behalf of the Oneida people with honor, respect, dignity, and sincerity and will strictly maintain confidential information. I will carry out the duties and responsibilities as a member of the [entity name], and all recommendations shall be made in the best interest of the Oneida Nation as a whole.

105.9-5. All oaths shall be sufficient to make the appointed or elected member of an entity aware of their duty to the Nation and as members of the entity.

### **105.10. Bylaws**

105.10-1. All entities of the Nation shall have bylaws that conform to the requirements of this law. Bylaws shall become effective upon approval of the Oneida Business Committee, unless where General Tribal Council approval is additionally required.

(a) All existing entities shall comply with this format and present bylaws for adoption

within a reasonable time after creation of the entity, or within a reasonable time after adoption of this law.

(b) Bylaws shall contain at least the minimum information required by law, although more information is not prohibited.

(c) *Exception.* Task Forces and Ad Hoc Committees are excepted from the requirement to have bylaws. However, these entities shall have, at minimum, mission or goal statements for completion of the task.

105.10-2. *Articles.* Bylaws shall contain, at a minimum, the following Articles:

(a) Article I. Authority.

(b) Article II. Officers.

(c) Article III. Meetings.

(d) Article IV. Expectations.

(e) Article V. Stipends and Compensation.

(f) Article VI. Records and Reporting.

(g) Article VII. Amendments.

105.10-3. *Sections.* Articles shall be divided into "sections" as set out.

(a) "Article I. Authority" shall consist of the following:

(1) *Name.* The full name of the entity shall be stated, along with any short name that will be officially used.

(2) *Establishment.* This section shall state the citation and name, if any, of the creation document.

(3) *Authority.* This section shall state the purpose for which the entity was created and what, if any, authority the entity is delegated.

(4) *Office.* There shall be listed the official office or post box of the entity.

(5) *Membership.* The following information shall be in this section:

(A) Number of members on the entity;

(B) If members on the entity are elected or appointed, and how a member is elected or appointed;

(C) How vacancies are filled; and

(D) Qualifications for membership on the entity.

(i) In order to qualify for membership on an entity, a person shall meet the minimum age requirements set forth for status as a qualified voter of the Nation, unless a law, policy, or directive sets forth a minimum age requirement.

(6) *Termination or Removal.* This section shall identify causes for termination or removal, if any, in addition to those already identified in laws and/or policies of the Nation.

(7) *Trainings and Conferences.* This section shall describe any trainings and/or conferences that the entity deems necessary for members to responsibly serve the entity, if any.

(b) "Article II. Officers" shall consist of the following:

(1) *Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.* This section creates the chairperson and vice-chairperson positions of the entity. Other officer positions may also be created here.

(2) *Responsibilities of the Chairperson.* Because of the importance of this position, all duties and responsibilities of the chairperson, as well as limitations of the



chairperson shall be specifically listed here.

(3) *Responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson.* Because of the importance of this position, all duties and responsibilities of the vice-chairperson, as well as limitations of the vice-chairperson shall be specifically listed here.

(4) *Responsibilities of Additional Officers.* There may be additional sections as needed for every officer position created in subsection one (1) above. These sections shall state all duties and responsibilities of the officer, as well as any limitations of the officer.

(5) *Selection of Officers.* This section shall identify how a member of the entity shall be selected for an official officer position in the entity.

(6) *Purchases and Travel.* This section shall identify how the entity shall approve purchases or travel on behalf of the entity.

(A) An entity shall follow the Nation's policies and procedures regarding purchasing and sign-off authority.

(B) Upon formal approval of a purchase by an entity, the Business Committee Support Office shall have official budgetary sign off authority for the entity.

(C) An entity shall approve a member's request to travel on behalf of the entity by majority vote at a regular or emergency meeting of the entity.

(7) *Personnel.* This section shall state the entity's authority for hiring personnel, if any, and the duties of such personnel.

(c) "Article III. Meetings" shall consist of the following:

(1) *Regular meetings.* This section shall identify when and where regular meetings shall be held, and how the entity shall provide notice of the meeting agenda, documents, and minutes.

(2) *Emergency meetings.* This section shall identify what constitutes an emergency meeting, how emergency meetings shall be called, and how the entity shall provide notice of the emergency meeting.

(A) All bylaws shall include a provision requiring that within seventy-two (72) hours after an emergency meeting, the entity shall provide the Nation's Secretary with notice of the meeting, the reason for the emergency meeting, and an explanation of why the matter could not wait for a regular meeting.

(3) *Joint Meetings.* This section shall identify if joint meetings shall be held, the frequency and location of joint meetings, and how the entity shall provide notice of the meeting agenda, documents, and minutes.

(4) *Quorum.* This section shall identify how many members of an entity create a quorum.

(5) *Order of Business.* This section sets out how the agenda will be set up.

(6) *Voting.* This section shall identify voting requirements, such as, but not limited to:

(A) the percentages that shall be needed to pass different items;

(B) if, and when, the chairperson is allowed to vote;

(C) if the use of an e-poll is permissible; and

(D) if the use of an e-poll is permissible, who will serve as the Chairperson's designee for the responsibility of conducting an e-poll, if a designee is utilized.

- (d) "Article IV. Expectations" shall consist of the following information:
- (1) *Behavior of Members*. This section shall identify the behavioral expectations and requirements of a member of the entity, and identify how the entity shall enforce these behavioral expectations.
  - (2) *Prohibition of Violence*. This section shall prohibit any violent intentional act committed by a member of the entity that inflicts, attempts to inflict, or threatens to inflict emotional or bodily harm on another person, or damage to property, and set forth any further expectations regarding the prohibition of violence.
  - (3) *Drug and Alcohol Use*. This section shall prohibit the use of alcohol and prohibited drugs for a member of an entity when acting in their official capacity, and set forth any further expectations regarding the use of prohibited drugs and alcohol.
  - (4) *Social Media*. This section shall identify expectations for the use of social media in regards to official business of the entity.
  - (5) *Conflict of Interest*. This section shall state any standards and expectations additional to those required by law of the Nation in regards to conflicts of interest and how they are handled, as well as requirements related to prohibited activities resulting from disclosed conflicts of interest, and means by which a party can alleviate or mitigate the conflict of interest.
- (e) "Article V. Stipends and Compensation" shall consist of the following information:
- (1) *Stipends*. This section shall include a comprehensive list of all stipends members are eligible to receive and the requirements for collecting each stipend, if any in addition to those contained in this law.
  - (2) *Compensation*. This section shall include details regarding all other forms of compensation members are eligible to receive and the requirements for collecting such compensation, if any in addition to those contained in this law.
- (f) "Article VI. Records and Reporting" shall consist of the following information:
- (1) *Agenda Items*. Agenda items shall be maintained in a consistent format as identified by this section.
  - (2) *Minutes*. Minutes shall be typed and in a consistent format designed to generate the most informative record of the meetings of the entity. This may include a summary of action taken by the entity. This section shall identify the format for minutes, and a reasonable timeframe by which minutes shall be submitted to the Business Committee Support Office.
  - (3) *Attachments*. Handouts, reports, memoranda, and the like may be attached to the minutes and agenda, or may be kept separately, provided that all materials can be identified to the meeting in which they were presented. This section shall identify how records of attachments shall be kept.
  - (4) *Oneida Business Committee Liaison*. Entities shall regularly communicate with the Oneida Business Committee member who is their designated liaison. This section shall identify a format and frequency for communication which may be as the liaison and entity agree to, but not less than that required in any law or policy on reporting developed by the Oneida Business Committee or Oneida General Tribal Council. The purpose of the liaison relationship is to uphold the ability of the liaison to act as a support to that entity.
  - (5) *Audio Recordings*. An entity shall audio record all meetings. This section shall

state how the entity shall audio record meetings, and how the entity shall maintain the audio records.

(A) *Exception.* Audio recordings of executive session portions of a meeting shall not be required.

(g) "Article VII. Amendments" consists of:

(1) *Amendments to Bylaws.* This section shall describe how amendments to the bylaws are made. Any amendments to bylaws shall conform to the requirements of this and any other policy of the Nation. Amendments to bylaws shall be approved by the Oneida Business Committee, in addition to the General Tribal Council when applicable, prior to implementation.

### **105.11. Electronic Polling**

105.11-1. An entity may utilize an e-poll when approval of an action may be required before the next available meeting agenda of the entity.

105.11-2. *Conducting an E-Poll.* The Chairperson of the entity, or designee, shall e-mail the e-poll to all members of the entity. Requests for an e-poll shall be sent only from an official e-mail address of the entity. The e-poll's message shall include the following information:

(a) The e-mail subject line shall begin with "E-poll Request:" and include a short title describing the purpose of the request.

(b) The body of the e-poll shall contain the following elements:

(1) An executive summary of the reason for the request and why the request cannot be presented at the next available meeting of the entity;

(2) A proposed motion which shall be in bold and identified in a separate paragraph by the words "Requested Action;"

(3) All attachments in \*.pdf format, which are necessary to understand the request being made; and

(4) A deadline date for a response to be returned regarding the results of the electronic poll which shall be in bold and identified in a separate paragraph by the words "Deadline for Response."

(A) E-poll requests shall be open for response not less than one (1) hour and no more than twenty-four (24) hours.

(B) The time frame for responses shall be determined by the Secretary of the entity, or designee, based on urgency, scheduling, and any other pertinent factors.

105.11-3. *Response to an E-Poll.* Only the member of an entity shall respond to an e-poll. A response from a member of an entity shall be valid if received from an official e-mail address of the entity. No responses from unknown e-mails or personal e-mails shall be accepted. An e-poll request shall receive responses from a majority of members of the entity in order to be an official vote.

(a) E-polls that receive at least a majority of supporting votes by the deadline are considered to be approved.

(b) E-polls for which insufficient responses were received by the deadline are considered to have failed to receive support, and result in a denied request.

(c) E-polls that result in a denied request may be reconsidered by the entity at the next available meeting.

(d) The Chairperson, or designee, shall monitor all responses and deadline dates for

responses.

105.11-4. *Entering an E-Poll in the Record.* Both approved and denied e-poll requests shall be placed on the next meeting agenda of the entity to be entered into the record. The agenda item shall contain the following information:

- (a) Original e-poll request and all supporting documentation;
- (b) A summary of the e-poll results identifying each member of the entity and his or her response; and
- (c) A copy of any comment by a member of the entity if comments are made beyond a vote.

## **105.12. Reporting Requirements**

105.12-1. *Minutes.* All minutes shall be submitted to the Business Committee Support Office within a reasonable time after approval by the entity, as identified in the entity's bylaws.

- (a) Actions taken by an entity are valid upon approval of the action by vote, unless the bylaws of the entity otherwise require minutes to be approved by the entity before the actions are valid.
- (b) Minutes shall be filed according to this section, and any specific directions within approved bylaws.
- (c) No action or approval of minutes is required by the Oneida Business Committee on minutes submitted by an entity unless specifically required by the bylaws of that entity.

105.12-2. *Standard Operating Procedures.* All standard operating procedures established by an entity shall be submitted to the Business Committee Support Office, where they shall be kept on file.

105.12-3. *Quarterly Reports to the Oneida Business Committee.* Entities shall provide quarterly reports to the Oneida Business Committee in accordance with the quarterly reporting schedule approved by the Oneida Business Committee. All quarterly reports shall be approved by official entity action before they are submitted. The quarterly reports shall not contain any information that conflicts with any law, resolution, or policy of the Nation. At least one (1) member of the entity shall attend the Oneida Business Committee meeting where the quarterly report is an agenda item. Quarterly reports shall follow a format prescribed by the Oneida Business Committee and contain the following information:

- (a) *Contact Information.* The name of the entity, the member submitting the report, the Oneida Business Committee liaison; and a list of the members and their titles, term expiration dates and contact information.
- (b) *Meetings.* When and how often the entity is holding meetings and whether any emergency meetings have been held.
  - (1) If emergency meetings were held, the report shall indicate the basis of the emergency for each meeting.
- (c) *Accomplishments.* Details of what the entity has accomplished that quarter, including any special events held during the reporting period and any travel by the members and/or staff.
- (d) *Goals.* Details of both the entity's long term goals, the entity's goals for the next quarter, and projected quarterly activities.
- (e) *Budget.* The amount of the entity's budget, the status of the budget at that quarter, the amount of each stipend a member may be eligible to receive, how the budget is being utilized by the entity, and projected budgetary uses for the next quarter.

(f) *Requests.* Details of any requests to the Oneida Business Committee.

(g) *Other.* And any other information deemed appropriate by the entity, as well as any other information required by a law or policy of the Nation.

105.12-4. *Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to the General Tribal Council.* Entities shall provide annual reports to the Oneida General Tribal Council based on their activities during the previous fiscal year, and semi-annual reports based on their activities during the current fiscal year. All annual and semi-annual reports shall follow a format prescribed by the Oneida Business Committee.

(a) Annual and semi-annual reports shall contain information on the number of substantiated complaints against all members of the entity.

(b) Each entity with oversight of a department shall also submit annual and semi-annual reports for each department the entity oversees.

105.12-5. Any failure to comply with the reporting requirements may result in the Oneida Business Committee placing a hold on the release of a stipend payment.

### **105.13. Stipends, Reimbursement and Compensation**

105.13-1. Stipends and reimbursement for expenses shall follow the procedures as set out in this section and according to procedures for payment as set out by the Nation, unless otherwise declined by the entity through its bylaws, or declined by a member.

105.13-2. The Oneida Business Committee shall set stipend amounts by resolution. The Oneida Business Committee shall periodically review the amounts provided for stipends and, based on the availability of funds, shall adjust those amounts accordingly by amending the resolution. Stipends are paid in the form of cash or cash equivalent, which may include, but is not limited to, gift cards.

105.13-3. *Meeting Stipends.* A member of an entity shall only receive a meeting stipend for a regular or emergency meeting where a quorum has been established in accordance with the duly adopted bylaws of that entity, that lasts for at least one (1) hour, and the member collecting the stipend is present for the entire meeting. Meetings can occur in person, by telephone, through videoconferencing, or through other telecommunications.

(a) *Meeting Stipends for an Appointed Entity.* An individual serving on an appointed entity shall be paid no more than twelve (12) meeting stipends per fiscal year.

(b) *Meeting Stipends for an Elected Entity.* An individual serving on an elected entity shall be paid no more than twenty-four (24) meeting stipends per fiscal year.

(c) *Demonstrating Presence During a Meeting.* An entity shall demonstrate the presence of its members during a meeting by taking roll call on the record at both the beginning and conclusion of a meeting.

(d) *Technological Issues Affecting Presence During a Meeting.* If a member of an entity experiences a technological issue during a regular or emergency meeting held by telephone, through videoconferencing, or through other telecommunications, and the technological issue disrupts the member's presence during the meeting, the member shall notify the entity of the technological issue as soon as possible.

(1) An exemption to the stipend eligibility requirement to be present for the entire meeting may be granted if the entity certifies by a majority vote that the member was present for a majority of the meeting despite the technological issue which disrupted the member's presence during the meeting.

105.13-4. *Joint Meeting Stipends.* A member of an entity shall only receive a stipend for a joint meeting where a quorum has been established in accordance with the duly adopted bylaws of that

entity, that lasts for at least one (1) hour, and the member collecting the stipend is present for the entire meeting. Joint meetings can occur in person, by telephone, through videoconferencing, or through other telecommunications.

(a) An individual shall receive a stipend for his or her attendance at a duly called joint meeting.

(1) A joint meeting stipend does not count towards the limitation on meeting stipends as provided for in section 105.13-3(a)-(b).

(b) *Demonstrating Presence During a Joint Meeting.* An entity shall demonstrate the presence of its members during a joint meeting by taking roll call on the record at both the beginning and conclusion of a joint meeting.

(c) *Technological Issues Affecting Presence During a Joint Meeting.* If a member of an entity experiences a technological issue during a joint meeting held by telephone, through videoconferencing, or through other telecommunications, and the technological issue disrupts the member's presence during the joint meeting, the member shall notify the entity of the technological issue as soon as possible.

(1) An exemption to the stipend eligibility requirement to be present for the entire joint meeting may be granted if the entity certifies by a majority vote that the member was present for a majority of the joint meeting despite the technological issue which disrupted the member's presence during the joint meeting.

105.13-5. *Oneida Judiciary Hearings.* A member of an entity shall receive a Judiciary hearing stipend if the member's attendance at the Judiciary hearing is required by official subpoena.

105.13-6. *Hearings of an Entity.* A member of an entity that maintains hearing authority may obtain a hearing stipend for conducting hearings administered by the entity. A hearing consists of all functions related to the resolution of the matter notwithstanding the amount of time it takes to resolve the matter, including, but not limited to, any continuations of the hearing and decision drafting.

105.13-7. *Other Stipends.* The Oneida Business Committee shall determine if, and when, any other stipends are appropriate to compensate members of entities for their official actions. All possible stipends shall be included in the Oneida Business Committee resolution which sets stipend amounts.

105.13-8. *Conferences and Training.* A member of any entity, elected or appointed, shall be reimbursed in accordance with the Nation's policy for travel and per diem, for attending a conference or training. Provided that:

(a) A member shall be eligible for a stipend for attending a conference or training, when attendance at the conference or training is required by law, bylaw or resolution.

(1) The amount of the stipend a member is eligible to receive for attendance at a conference or training shall be dependent on whether the member attended up to four (4) hours of a conference or training, or more than four (4) hours of a conference or training.

(b) A member shall not be eligible for a conference and training stipend if that training is not required by law, bylaw or resolution.

(c) No stipend payments shall be made for those days spent traveling to and from the conference or training.

105.13-9. *Business Expenses.* All members of entities shall be eligible for reimbursement for normal business expenses naturally related to membership in the entity.

105.13-10. *Task Force and Ad Hoc Subcommittees.* Members of task force, ad hoc committees

and subcommittees shall not be eligible for stipends unless specific exception is made by the Oneida Business Committee or the Oneida General Tribal Council.

#### **105.14. Confidential Information**

105.14-1. All members of an entity shall maintain in a confidential manner all information obtained through their position on the entity. The Nation requires that all members of an entity who have access to the Nation's confidential information be subject to specific limitations in order to protect the interest of the Nation and ensure that no persons engaged in by the Nation, nor their relatives or associates, benefit from the use of confidential information.

(a) Confidential information shall be considered and kept as the private and privileged records of the Nation and will not be divulged to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity except by direct written authorization of the Oneida Business Committee.

(b) A member of an entity will continue to treat as private and privileged any confidential information, and will not release any such information to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity, either by statement, deposition, or as a witness, except upon direct written authority of Oneida Business Committee, and the Nation shall be entitled to an injunction by any competent court to enjoin and restrain the unauthorized disclosure of such information. Such restriction continues after termination of the relationship with the Nation and the entity.

(c) Upon completion or termination of his or her elected or appointed term of membership in an entity, for any cause whatsoever, the member of the entity will surrender to the Nation, in good condition, all records kept by the member of the entity.

(d) No member of an entity shall disclose confidential information acquired by reason of his other relationship or status with the Nation for his or her personal advantage, gain, or profit, or for the advantage, gain, or profit of a relative or associate.

105.14-2. Any records created or obtained while as an official of an entity are the property of the Nation and shall only be removed or destroyed by approval from a majority vote of the entity at a duly called meeting. All removal or destruction of documents shall be made in accordance with the Nation's laws and policies governing open records and open meetings.

105.14-3. *Official Oneida Nation E-mail Address.* Each member of an entity shall be provided an official Oneida e-mail address upon election or appointment for the purpose of conducting business of the entity electronically.

(a) If a member is also an employee of the Nation, he or she shall receive a separate e-mail address from his or her regular work e-mail address.

(b) A member of an entity shall have thirty (30) days upon election or appointment to an entity to activate his or her official e-mail address.

(c) An individual who holds a position as an ad hoc or alternate member of an entity shall be exempt from the requirement to be provided an official e-mail address, unless determined that an e-mail address is necessary for the role and responsibilities of the ad hoc or alternate member.

(d) A member of an entity shall sign an acknowledgment form provided by the Nation's Secretary indicating notice of the Nation's applicable computer and media related laws, policies and rules. The Nation's Secretary shall maintain a record of all such acknowledgment forms.

(e) A member of an entity shall exclusively use his or her official e-mail address to electronically conduct any business of the entity, and shall not use a personal or work e-

mail address to electronically conduct any business of the entity.

(f) Immediately upon receipt of notice of an entity vacancy, the Nation's Secretary shall instruct the Management Information Systems department to disable the e-mail address for the member having vacated the position.

### **105.15. Conflicts of Interest**

105.15-1. All members of an entity are required to adhere to the Nation's laws and policies governing conflicts of interest.

105.15-2. A member of an entity shall disclose a conflict of interest to the Nation's Secretary as soon as the conflict arises and update a conflict of interest disclosure form with the Nation's Secretary on an annual basis.

(a) Upon receiving information of a potential conflict of interest, the Nation's Secretary shall request a determination from the Oneida Law Office whether further action shall be taken by the Nation regarding the status of the official.

105.15-3. *Ineligibility Due to Conflicts of Interest.* Due to the potential for a real or perceived conflict of interest to exist, the following individuals shall not be eligible to serve on an appointed or elected entity:

(a) political appointees;

(b) an employee of the Nation's Internal Audit Department, Finance Administration, Law Office, Business Committee Support Office, or Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications; and

(c) an employee who serves as a direct report to the Oneida Business Committee or General Manager.

### **105.16. Use of the Nation's Assets**

105.16-1. Entities shall maintain all bank accounts for the Nation's funds in the name of the Oneida Nation. Bank accounts will be reflected on the Oneida Nation's books in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

105.16-2. Each member of an entity shall comply with the system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide assurances that:

(a) all transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization; and

(b) access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management's authorization; and

(c) all transactions are recorded to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or other applicable criteria.

105.16-3. Any evidence of noncompliance with any policy regarding the use of tribal assets shall be immediately reported to the Internal Audit department. If the Internal Audit department finds evidence of noncompliance they shall notify the Oneida Law Office, who will then make a determination of further action to be taken, if any.

### **105.17. Dissolution of an Entity**

105.17-1. *Dissolution of a Task Force or Ad Hoc Committee.* A task force or ad hoc committee dissolves upon a set date or acceptance of a final report. Unless otherwise indicated, the materials generated by a task force or ad hoc committee shall be forwarded to the Business Committee Support Office for proper disposal within two (2) weeks of the dissolution.

105.17-2. *Dissolution of an Entity.* All other entities of the Nation shall be dissolved only by motion of the Oneida General Tribal Council or the Oneida Business Committee.



105.17-3. *Notice of Dissolution.* Within five (5) business days of the Oneida General Tribal Council or the Oneida Business Committee taking official action to dissolve an entity, the Oneida Business Committee shall provide the entity written notice of the dissolution.

105.17-4. *Management of Records and Materials.* All chairpersons and secretaries of dissolved entities shall be responsible for closing out open business of the entity and forwarding all materials and records to the Business Committee Support Office for proper storage and disposal within two (2) weeks of dissolution. The entity shall not alter or destroy any records. The Business Committee Support Office may utilize the assistance of the Records Management Department and/or any other appropriate department for the storage and disposal of the records and materials.

(a) The entity may request the Oneida Business Committee to grant a one (1) week extension of the time allowed to close out open business of the entity and forward all materials and records to the Business Committee Support Office.

### **105.18. Enforcement**

105.18-1. Any member of an entity found to be in violation of this law may be subject to:

- (a) sanctions and penalties in accordance with any laws or policies of the Nation governing sanctions and/or penalties;
- (b) removal pursuant to any laws or policies of the Nation's governing removal, if the individual is a member of an elected entity; or
- (c) termination of appointment by the Oneida Business Committee, if the individual is a member of an appointed entity.

*End.*

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Adopted - BC-08-02-95-A  
Amended - BC-05-14-97-F  
Emergency Amended - BC-04-12-06-JJ  
Amended - BC-09-27-06-E (permanent adoption of emergency amendments)  
Amended – BC-09-22-10-C  
Amended – BC-09-26-18-C  
Emergency Amended – BC-03-11-20-B  
Emergency Amended – BC-03-17-20-C  
Amended – BC-08-12-20-B